(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Research on drugs

2211. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the study conducted by the Kerala Sastra Parishad as reported in the Financial Express dated 26th July, 1985 the multinationals have been sabotaging innovations in the Indian Pharmaceuticals industry and that research in many areas of essential drugs could not be carried out because of the opposition from multinational drug companies; and

(b) if so, what are the areas in which there has been constant struggle between the technology imported by the multinational companies and that developed by the Indian firms and what encouragement has been given by the Government to develop indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) The specific instances of 'Indian innovations a victim of Sabotage by multinational corporations" referred to in the report of the Kerala Sastra Parishad refer mostly to the period prior to 1978 Drug Policy. The 1978 Drug Policy has earmarked specifically the areas for FERA drug companies. The latter are permitted to produce only drugs not reserved for the public sector or the Indian sector and that too from the basic stage and only if the process involves high technology.

For encouraging development of indigenous technology for the production of drugs and pharmaceuticals, certain incentives are being offered, e.g.:

(i) delicensing with the approval of Min. of Science & Technology;

(ii) liberalised treatment in import policy for recognised R&D laboratories;

(iii) price decontrol on bulk drug developed for the first time through indigenous R&D.

Change in the basic raw material for manufacture of vaccine carriers

2212. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the basic raw material for the manufacture of vaccine carriers from Polystyrene (commonly known as Thercomole) to Polyurethane;

(b) whether Government have taken into consideration the composition of Polyurethane which when burnt emits dangerous MIC gas;

(c) how and in what manner Government find Polyurethane better than Polystyrene—Property-wise and price-wise; and

(d) what would be the approximate requirement of Thermocole Boxes during 1985-86 and 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d) Information, to the extent possible, would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Excess Gypsum of FACT

2213. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited is stocking Gypsum in excess;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for proper (i) storing of

the stock; and (ii) inventory control; and

(c) what are the reasons leading to excess stocking of Gypsum?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Gypsum is a by-product in the Phosphoric Acid Sections of Cochin and Udyogamandal Plants. Generally, it is waste material, except for very limited offtake by cement plants, and is dumped in the open. There is, therefore, no question of excess-stocking of gypsum by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proluction of sub-standard fertilizers by FACT

2214. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether is is a fact that the FACT is producing sub-standard super phosphate fertilizers; and

(b) if so, in what circumstances, and what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Joint venture fertilizer production

2215. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into joint ventures with other countries for the production of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has entered into a joint venture with Senegal for production of phosphatic fertilizers in that country. The Senegal project will make an assured supply of 1.10 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid (P_2O_5) per annum to Indian plants for manufacture of finished fertilisers. Government has also entered into a financial participation agreement with the Government of Nauru under which the Government of Nauru will have 40 per cent equity shares in the authorised capital of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) which is setting up a Di-ammonium Phosphate fertilizers plant in Paradeep (Orissa).

Production of Enythomycin

2216. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIERS be pleased to state:

(a) which of the units are producing Erythomycin and its salts from the basic stages and what is their production during the last three years, year-wise:

(b) whether the price of Erythomycin and its salts have been fixed; is so, the price of each;

(c) what is the present customs duty on Erythomycin Thiocynate and what was its import during 1984-85 and upto 30th June, 1985 by each unit alongwith source and landed cost per kg. of each consignment;

(d) whether it is a fact that customs duty was increased on this penultimate drug;

(e) if so, when and what was the duty imposed earlier and what is the present duty:

(f) whether it is a fact that certain units imported huge quantities of this drug before the increase in customs duty;

(g) if so, the quantity imported by each unit during the six months preceding the increase; and